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Amendments to the Specification

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 24, which begins with "A multiway valve", with the following rewritten paragraph:

A multiway valve 5 with a milk inlet neck 8 and milk outlets 6 and 7 is connected to the teat cups 1 by means of said short milk hoses 4. The short milk hose 4 comprises a first end portion 9 which is pushed onto the connection neck 3 and a second end portion 10 which is pushed onto the connection neck 8, and a centre piece 11. The end portions 9 and 10 are each provided with beadlike, enlarged portions or reinforcement members 12 and 13, respectively, which increase the stiffness of this area. Kinking of the hoses, which often occurs in the connection areas, will be excluded in this way. The centre piece 11 of the short milk hose 4 is provided with spaced-apart annular elevations or reinforcement elements 14 along a certain area thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 3, which begins with "Fig. 2 shows", with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 2 shows a side view of the short milk hose 4 in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention, and Fig. 2a is an enlarged detail view of a portion of the milk hose 4 shown in Fig. 2. In Fig. 2 identical parts are designated by the same reference numerals as in Fig. 1. It can be seen in ~~this figure~~ Figs. 2 and 2a that, in the case of this embodiment, the respective elevations 14 in the middle of the centre piece 11 have smaller axial dimensions than the elevations 14 ~~in at~~ the end portions 10 and 9 of said centre piece. The density of the elevations, i.e. their number per unit length, remains preferably constant over the length of

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the centre piece 11. The elevations 14 of this embodiment as well as all the other components of the short milk hose 4 are produced from the same elastic material. It is, of course, possible to use different materials for the various areas. The end portions 10 and 9 may, for example, consist of a mixture of materials including additives which make the material more stable, since these areas do not come into direct contact with the flow of milk. In addition, it is also imaginable to implement the elevations such that they have a uniform but smaller width, and to provide them with reinforcing rings or clips of a mechanically very stable material as a compensation. Metal rings or metal clips may e.g. guarantee a very high mechanical stability when used in combination with an elevation of minimum width.

Please replace the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS section with the marked-up copy of the section enclosed herewith.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a schematic, three-dimensional representation of a milking unit;

Fig. 2 shows a side view of one embodiment of the milk hose according to the present invention;

Fig. 2a shows an enlarged detail view of a portion of the milk hose of Fig. 2;

Fig. 3 shows a cross-section of the embodiment according to Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 shows a representation of the milk hose of the present invention in the bent condition of the hose; and

Fig. 4a shows a side view of a further embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 5 shows a cross-section through a further embodiment of the milk hose of the present invention.

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Fig. 6a-6d each show a cross-section through the central area of the centre piece of the milk hose according to further preferred embodiments.